

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05113 151444Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 EUR-12 L-03 SS-15 MCE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 NEA-10 /056 W

-----119478 151451Z /41

R 151430Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5485

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STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MASS, IS, BE

SUBJECT: SALE TO ISRAEL: FMS CASE NO. DPDR-EBR

REF: DLA/DPDR EUROPE LINDSEY AS GER MSG 141030ZMAR78

1. REFTEL INDICATES THAT SHIPMENT OF 10,000 CARBINES
IN QUESTION HAS ESCAPED USG CONTROL AND GONE AROUND
SYSTEM FOR HANDLING SUCH CASES WORKED OUT WITH THE COOP-
ERATION OF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. WE ALSO HAVE NOTED
DPDR LINDSEY'S RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS CASE BE
CONSIDERED CLOSED.

2. WERE THIS A UNIQUE CASE OF MANAGEMENT ERROR, EMIGHT
ACCEPT THE DPDR LINDSEY RECOMMENDATION. AS IT IS NOT
(E.G. TELS CITED BRUSSELS 3872 WHICH WERE PROVOKED BY
PREVIOUS ERRORS), AND AS WE ARE AWARE OF BELGIAN
SENSITIVITIES ON THIS AND OTHER U.S. MILITARY ACTIVITIES
WHICH TOUCH ON BELGIAN INTERESTS, WE DO NOT ACCEPT
DPDR LINDSEY'S RECOMMENDATION.

3. ON THIS SPECIFIC CASE, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT HAD
WE NOT TWICE ASKED FOR SPECIFIC ASSURANCES THAT SHIPMENT
WAS STILL UNDER USG CONTROL (BRUSSELS 3872 AND 4943),
AND THEN FOUND OUT THAT IT WAS NOT (REFTEL), WE WOULD
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HAVE CALLED THE CASE TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION
IN AN AMBASSADOR TO FOREIGN MINISTER LETTER REQUESTING
GOB PROCESSING OF THE EXPORT LICENSE. HAD THAT OCCURRED,
THE GOB WOULD HAVE FOUND OUT THAT THE USG HAD VIOLATED
THE ESTABLISHED SYSTEM. THE GOB'S REACTION MIGHT HAVE
HAD SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR FUTURE SHIPMENTS AND
COULD EASILY HAVE HAD A SPILLOVER EFFECT ON OTHER MILITARY

MATTERS UNDER DISCUSSION OF CONSIDERABLY MORE IMPORTANCE.
IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT WE HAD ALERTED DPDR LINDSEY
BY TELEPHONE PRIOR TO THE SENDING OF DPDR LINDSEY
MSG 151436Z FEB 78 THAT WE INSISTED THAT THE ARMS SHIPMENT
REMAIN UNDER USG CONTROL UNTIL THE MANAGEMENT QUESTION
RAISED IN THAT MESSAGE WAS RESOLVED.

4. WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE ISRAELI AGENT IN ANTWERP
WHO SETS UP SUCH SHIPMENTS (W.J. D'HOOGHE, STELLA
HAVENBEDRIJF N.V., WHO WORKS WITH HYDROMA GMBH IN
GERMANY) IS NOT ABOVE SMUGGLING AND BRIBING IN ORDER TO
ACHIEVE HIS ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL. WE HAVE NO
PROBLEM IN DEALING WITH HIM ON WELL MANAGED QUESTIONS
(SUCH AS THESE SHIPMENTS) IN WHICH THERE IS A COMMON
USG AND THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT INTEREST. WE CANNOT,
HOWEVER, COUNT ON HIM TO TAKE PAINS TO SEE THAT U.S.-
BELGIAN INTERESTS ARE NOT PUT IN JEOPARDY.

5. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT STATE CONSIDER APPROACHING
DOD TO REVIEW HOW SUCH SHIPMENTS ARE HANDLED IN
GENERAL, WITH SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO THIS CASE AND THE
CHRONOLOGY AND REASONS FOR THE LOSS OF USG CONTROL OVER
THIS SHIPMENT OF 10,000 CARBINES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT
WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH PAST PRACTICE TO REQUEST THE
OASD/ISA CHAIRMAN OF THE MIDDLE EAST TASK GROUP TO
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP, WITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE, TO
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LOOK INTO THE QUESTION. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMALL ARMS, MILITARY SALES, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, TRANSACTION CHECKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decapton Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE05113
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780115-0425
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780368/aaaacewg.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c3f66dc7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 4943, 78 BRUSSELS 3872
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3329092
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SALE TO ISRAEL: FMS CASE NO. DPDR-EBR
TAGS: MASS, IS, BE, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c3f66dc7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014